

THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

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J.C.Spilman, Editor

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92^d CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5360

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 1971

Mr. McCLURE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency

A BILL

To prohibit the manufacture or importation of coin replicas unless such replicas are manufactured in accordance with standards prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce, and for other purposes.



YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!



Editor's Notebook



Our frontispiece illustrates the masthead from H.R.5360 introduced by Congressman James A. McClure (R-Idaho) on March 2, 1971. This proposed legislation replaces his H.R.9448 which died in committee during the last session. The entire text of this Bill is presented on pages 316 and 317.

It is important and essential that this Bill receive the active support of each of our Patrons. The problem of unmarked replicas of Colonial American and other coinages reached serious proportions during 1967 when several firms started distribution of large quantities of unmarked replicas through various outlets as promotional material. The listing on page 318 is an example of the problem. This tabulation of replicas of Colonial American issues are those that had become available from one New York State firm by mid-1969 -- all unmarked replicas extremely deceptive in appearance. Almost eighty different specimens are tabulated on this page which is but one page of some ten pages of replicas of other issues.

When this problem first reached serious proportions during 1967 ye editor wrote to the, then, Director of the Mint, Miss Eva Adams suggesting that one of the replicas being distributed, the Fugio Cent, should be considered a counterfeit of an officially authorized United States coin, and should be seized by the Treasury Department. Miss Adams' reply is presented on page 319 and makes it quite evident that the only possible solution is new legislation.

This current breed of replica is certainly not designed for purposes of fraud. They are - at best - mistaken for very high quality electros by those of us familiar with electros, but to the inexperienced they are pure poison as many of them now rest in the stock of uninformed dealers as genuine specimens. Last year one of our Patrons who is a dealer in California was offered a "recently discovered hoard of rare and valuable Colonial American coins" which turned out to consist almost entirely of these replicas. A considerable number are being traded as genuine.

No matter how much we dislike these things and resent and decry their manufacture, the Mint's statement makes it clear that there is no way to attack the problem except through legislation. It is perfectly legal for anyone to manufacture such replicas, whether marked or unmarked. We sincerely believe that the numismatic artifacts of our emerging Nation should be protected by law. Your support is needed!

So - what can you do? First, write to at least one Senator and one Representative from your State and tell him that you want his support for H.R.5360. Then write to Congressman James A. McClure, 1034 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C. and express to him your support and your suggestions or recommendations on this problem. Unless this legislation is pushed by all of us it may die, once again, in committee. Your support - and suggestions - are needed!!! TODAY!!!

92ND CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R. 5360****A BILL**

To prohibit the manufacture or importation of coin replicas unless such replicas are manufactured in accordance with standards prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
That it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, or import for introduction, or introduce into interstate commerce, a replica of any coin which is not in circulation, whether foreign or domestic, unless such replica is manufactured and marked in accordance with standards prescribed by the Secretary of Commerce under section 3.

SEC. 2. Any person who violates the first section of this Act shall be subject to imprisonment for not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000, or both.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Commerce, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe and publish in the Federal Register standards with respect to the manufacture of coin replicas, which standards shall be designed to prevent fraudulent practices in the manufacture of coin replicas by means of a clear and discernible

marking of the reproductions or replicas. The standards first established under this section shall be prescribed and published not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. As used in this Act—

The term “coin replica” means any reproduction or other replica of any coin, whether foreign or domestic, which is not in current circulation.

SEC. 5. The several district courts of the United States are invested with jurisdiction, for cause shown, to prevent and restrain violations of this Act upon the application of the Attorney General of the United States acting through the several United States attorneys in their several districts.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment, except that the first section of this Act shall take effect six months after the date of publication of the standards established under section 3 of this Act. In the event of a change in the standards first established, a like period shall be allowed for compliance with such change.

COINS OF COLONIAL AMERICA

Sommer Island Shilling	1616	Conn. Horned Bust Cent	1787
" " Sixpence	1616	Conn. Horned Bust Cent	1787
" " Threepence	1616	Mass. Pine Tree Copper	1776
Sommer Island Twopence	1616	Mass. Halfpenny Janus Copper	1776
NE Shilling	1652	Mass. Cent	1787
NE Sixpence	1652	Mass. Half Cent	1787
NE Threepence	1652	Mass. Cent	1788
Willow Tree Shilling	1653-60	Mass. Half Cent	1788
" " Sixpence	1653-60	N. J. Cent	1787
" " Threepence	1653-60	Continental Dollar	1776
Oak Tree Shilling	1660-67	Nova Constellatio Pattern	1783
" " Sixpence	1660-67	Nova Constellatio Copper	1783
" " Threepence	1660-67	" " "	1786
" " Twopence	1660-67	Brasher's Gold Doubloon	1787
Pine Tree Shilling large	1667	" Half Doubloon	1787
" " " small	1675	Higley Copper-Axe	1737
" " Sixpence	1675	Bar Cent	1785
" " Threepence	1675	Talbot Allum & Lee Cent	1794
Lord Baltimore Shilling	1658	" " " " "	1795
" " Sixpence	1658	God Preserve New England	1694
" " Fourpence	1658	Carolina Elephant Token	1694
St. Patrick Halfpence	1678	God Preserve London	1694
St. Patrick Farthing	1678	Virginia Halfpenny	1773
Rosa Americana Twopence	1723	Virginia Penny	1773
" " Penny	1723	Georgius Triumpho Token	1783
" " Halfpence	1723	Auctori Plebus Token	1787
" " Twopence	1733	Kentucky Token	1792
Hibernia Halfpenny	1722	Middleton Token	1796
Hibernia Halfpenny	1723	Florida 1/24 Real Token	1688
Hibernia Farthing	1723	Franklin Press Cent	1794
Hibernia Halfpenny	1724	Voce Populi Halfpenny	1700
Hibernia Farthing	1724	Voce Populi Farthing	1760
New Hampshire Halfpenny	1776	Rhode Island Ship Token	1778-79
Vermontis Cent	1785	Castorland Medal	1796
George Clinton Cent	1787	George Washington President	1789
Indian N.Y. Arms Cent	1787	Fugio Cent	1787
Immunis Columbia Cent	1787	Abolitionists Token England	1792
Nova Eborac Cent	1787	Abolitionista Token U.S.	1838
Conn. Etlib Inde Cent	1787		



OFFICE OF
DIRECTOR OF THE MINT

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

July 24, 1967.

Mr. James C. Spilman,
Editor and Publisher
The Colonial Newsletter,
P. O. Box 4411,
Huntsville, Alabama 35802.

Dear Mr. Spilman:

I have before me your inquiry about the reproduction
of colonial coins, with particular reference to the Fugio Cent.

There are a lot of statutes on the books relating to
coins and counterfeiting. However, so far as we can determine,
the Treasury is not charged with the enforcement of any law
which might prohibit the reproduction of coins of the Colonies
issued prior to the beginning of operations by the Mint.

Sincerely,

Eva Adams
Director of the Mint

* COMMENTS ON THE FUGIO CENTS OF 1787 *Rarity and MOS

In this group of Comments on the Fugio Cents of 1787 I shall discuss the rarity of the varieties together with details of die juxtaposition and data on some unusual specimens that I call multiple offset strikes (MOS).

When Eric P. Newman published his Varieties of the Fugio Cent in the July-August 1952 issue of The Coin Collector's Journal he made no mention of the relative rarities. There were at that time 21 obverses and 25 reverses comprising 39 varieties.

The first published rarity table for the Fugios appeared in New and Unlisted Varieties of the Fugio Cent published by Empire Coin Company in the December 1958-January 1959 issue of Empire Topics. By that time nine new varieties had been discovered for a total of 48 made up of 22 obverses and 27 reverses. This listing was tentative and was based on the research efforts of Q. David Bowers and James F. Ruddy with the assistance of Walter H. Breen, Kenneth E. Bressett, Eric P. Newman and Richard Picker. As time has passed it has become evident that these tentative rarity designations were reasonably accurate but some of the varieties were more common than originally thought.

Today the number of varieties has climbed to 54 comprised of 23 obverses and 30 reverses. Four new dies have been discovered since the Empire Topics tabulation in 1958 accounting for six additional varieties. A number of attempts have been made by researchers during the past few years to obtain a census of the extant Fugios but these attempts have not met with success. Many of the requests for information received no reply and a considerable number of specimens were unattributed except by type and could not be included in the count. Accordingly, this new tabulation is no more accurate than was the original tabulation in Empire Topics; however, it is hopefully more valid than the original in a relative sense since quite a few varieties carried as R-8 and R-7 have definitely been established at lower levels. Using the values developed in the Empire Topics tabulation as a baseline, these new values have been developed to reflect the findings of the writer over the past ten years which have included examination of many unattributed specimens, a survey of dealers catalog sales and stock, and personal correspondence with collectors. There will, no doubt, be some disagreement with these new values, and perhaps some new discoveries have been omitted. All data relative to improving this tabulation will be appreciated and will be included in future listings. There are still many Fugios in collections and in dealer's stocks that have not been attributed and until this is accomplished these rarity values should continue to be considered as tentative.

Two new features have been included in this tabulation. These are the inclusion of data on upset reverses - that is - rotated 180° from the normal position, and the identification of specimens having multiple offset strikes (MOS). The rarity scale is that developed by Dr. William H. Sheldon in Early American Cents, which is as follows:

R-1	Common
R-2	Not so common
R-3	Scarce
R-4	Very scarce (population estimated at 76 to 200)
R-5	Rare (31 - 75)
R-6	Very rare (13 - 30)
R-7	Extremely rare (4 - 12)
R-8	Unique or nearly unique (1, 2, or 3)

Note that Dr. Sheldon recognized the problems associated with determining the exact quantity of specimens since his population quantities are estimates.

In order to include the information relative to the MOS (multiple offset strikes) specimens, a simple scheme has been developed to identify these specimens and a number of them are illustrated on the plate to aid in visualizing these unusual specimens. Some of these may be the result of coinage accidents during striking, but others had to be deliberate products of the mint master's whim such as MOS Type C which required two fully struck coins to be between the dies at the same time.

The MOS specimens are identified as Type A, B and C. The backing pieces used to produce the effect are designated by the corresponding double letter, BB and CC. There is no Type AA since there was no backing piece used to produce the Type A. Each of the five basic types is described in the following paragraph. No consideration is given here to the relative position of the first strike to the subsequent strikes, or to the number of subsequent strikes, but such a scheme is readily established by tabulating the approximate percentage offset and angle of displacement of each subsequent strike relative to the initial strike. We were unable to illustrate every one of the designated types due to a lack of suitable specimens. If any of our Patrons can furnish nice specimens for the missing illustrations we will appreciate receiving them for photographing. They do exist.

While all of the specimens illustrated are only twice struck, and all are obverse over obverse, etc., this need not be the case; a Type A specimen could be a second obverse over a reverse, for example, or be triple struck, but it would still be classed as MOS Type A. The type designator is established by the nature of the backing piece, and the backing piece assumes the double designator of the type it assisted in producing. The reason for this approach is that an almost infinite variety is possible and some other method might lead to endless

complication. Each specimen is different but many are similar to each other. The uniformity and similarity of the specimens leads toward the conclusion that many of them may have been intentionally produced. As for their rarity, backing pieces are extremely rare, R-8 for all varieties; as a class, Type A seem to be about R-7; Type B about R-6; Type C R-8. By variety all are probably high R-7 or R-8.

- MOS Type A Specimen struck in the normal manner, then offset in the dies and struck again. Strike areas match on each side. (Since no backing piece was used there is no Type AA).
- MOS Type B Similar to Type A except a blank planchet was in place on the dies when the offset strike was accomplished. Second strike areas match on each side. Original pattern flattened on back side where blank planchet was driven into first strike area.
- MOS Type BB The backing piece from a MOS Type B strike. Top side is offset brockage, opposite side may resemble normal strike but weakly struck on portions. Second strike areas appear not to match on each side.
- MOS Type C Similar to Type A except a fully struck coin was in place on the die when the offset strike was accomplished. Backside second strike area is brockage rather than flattened as in Type B.
- MOS Type CC The backing piece from a Type C strike. Top side is offset brockage over fully struck coin, opposite side may resemble normal strike or have slightly double struck appearance near one edge. Second strike areas appear not to match on each side.

We are especially anxious to obtain good photographs of Types BB and C. Those we have seen were in poor condition and not suitable for publication, nor were they attributed by variety. We are also interested in obtaining photographs of specimens having three or more offset strikes. The specimen mentioned in note 15 to the rarity table has five or possibly six sets of offset strikes and appears to have been used as a positioning device, or a test specimen for this purpose, and could be classed as MOS Type B and CC having been used as each. All of the strikes are relatively light which makes it difficult to examine and almost impossible to photograph. It is best described as a mess.

Finally, to classify as a MOS specimen - the coin must have received at least two impressions offset at least 10% from each other. Double struck specimens only slightly offset and badly off center single strikes do not fall within this classification.



11-B



17-S





8-X



13-X





8-X



13-X



● FUGIO RARITY TABLE ●

Variety	1958 Rarity	1971 Rarity	Notes	Variety	1958 Rarity	1971 Rarity	Notes
1-B	R-6	R-5	1	13-N	R-8	R-7	
1-L	R-8	R-7		13-R	R-7	R-6	
1-Z	R-7	R-7	2	13-X	R-1	R-1	9, 12
1-CC	R-7	R-7		13-KK	---	R-8	2, 4
2-C	R-7	R-7		14-H	---	R-8	2, 4
3-D	R-5	R-4		14-O	R-6	R-5	
4-E	R-4	R-4	3	15-H	R-6	R-6	
5-F	R-7	R-7		15-K	R-7	R-7	13
5-HH	---	R-8	4, 2	15-V	R-7	R-7	
6-W	R-6	R-5		15-Y	R-4	R-4	9
7-T	R-6	R-4/R-8	5	16-H	R-6	R-6	7
8-B	R-1	R-1		16-N	R-5	R-5	
8-X	R-3	R-3	9, 12, 15	17-I	---	R-8	2, 4
9-P	R-6	R-5	1	17-S	R-7	R-5	8
9-Q	R-8	R-6		17-WW	R-8	R-7	
9-S	R-8	R-7		18-H	R-6	R-6	
9-T	R-6	R-5		18-U	R-5	R-4	
10-G	R-7	R-7		18-X	R-8	R-8	2
10-T	R-7	R-7		19-M	R-7	R-7	13
11-A	R-6	R-6		19-Z	R-7	R-7/R-8	14
11-B	R-3	R-3	8, 9	19-SS	R-8	R-7	13
11-X	R-4	R-3		20-R	R-8	R-8	
12-M	R-7	R-5		20-X	R-7	R-7	
12-S	R-7	R-5		21-I	R-7	R-5	
12-U	R-7	R-6		22-M	R-8	R-7	
12-X	R-1	R-1		23-ZZ	---	R-8	6
12-Z	R-7	R-7	13				
12-KK	---	R-7					

Notes are on the following page.

● NOTES TO FUGIO RARITY TABLE ●

1. Varieties 1-Q and 9-L carried in the Empire Topics listing as R-6, for each, do not exist.
2. Die juxtaposition is uncertain. Data on this will be appreciated for future revisions to this tabulation.
3. Variety 4-E seem to be just slightly more numerous than variety 3-D. The other "Club Ray" varieties 2-C, 5-F, 5-HH and 23-ZZ are extremely scarce.
4. Believed to be unique.
5. Die combination 7-T occurred twice during the history of the T die. The striking order was 7-T, 9-T, 10-T and finally 7-T again. In the final combination the T die shows extensive breaks and this combination is R-8.
6. 23-ZZ is believed to be a double unique specimen. A single specimen exists and neither die is known in combination with any other at present.
7. Some specimens of 16-H are the lightest known Fugio specimens, being about 101 grains. The heaviest are the 7-T and 9-T at approximately 180 grains. These are the extremes. The weight distribution curve of the Fugios is double peaked with the first peak at about 143 grains and the second at about 155 grains. The authorized weight was 157 1/2 grains; therefore the majority of the extant Fugios are significantly below the authorized weight.
8. MOS Type A known. 9. MOS Type B known. 10. MOS Type C known.
11. MOS Type BB known. 12. MOS Type CC known.
13. All known specimens have upset reverses. Data on specimens having normal die juxtaposition will be appreciated for future revisions to this tabulation.
14. Occurs with both normal and upset reverses. Normal is R-7; upset is R-8.
15. One specimen of 8-X is known having 5 or 6 different offset strikes. It apparently was used as a test specimen for positioning purposes.